

# YIDDISH STUDIES

## Germanic Languages

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Director of the Language Program: Jutta Schmiers-Heller, [js2331@columbia.edu](mailto:js2331@columbia.edu), 212-854-5381

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## The Department of Germanic Languages

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures is considered one of the very best in the country. Many of the faculty specialize in the study of German literature and culture from 1700 to the present. German majors acquire proficiency in examining literary, philosophical, and historical texts in the original, as well as critical understanding of modern German culture and society. Particular attention is given to German-speaking traditions within larger European and global contexts. Courses taught in translation build on Columbia's Core Curriculum, thereby allowing students to enroll in upper-level seminars before completing the language requirement.

All classes are taught as part of a living culture. Students have ample opportunities to study abroad, to work with visiting scholars, and to take part in the cultural programs at Deutsches Haus. In addition, the department encourages internships with German firms, museums, and government offices. This hands-on experience immerses students in both language and culture, preparing them for graduate study and professional careers.

Upon graduation, German majors compete successfully for Fulbright or DAAD scholarships for research in Germany or Austria beyond the B.A. degree. Our graduating seniors are highly qualified to pursue graduate studies in the humanities and social sciences, as well as professional careers. Former majors and concentrators have gone on to careers in teaching, law, journalism, banking and consulting, international affairs, and communications.

German literature and culture courses are taught as seminars integrating philosophical and social questions. Topics include romanticism, revolution, and national identity; German intellectual history; minority literatures; Weimar cinema; German-Jewish culture and modernity; the Holocaust and memory; and the history and culture of Berlin. Classes are small, with enrollment ranging from 5 to 15 students.

The department regularly offers courses in German literature and culture in English for students who do not study the German language. The department also participates in Columbia's excellent program in comparative literature and society.

## The Yiddish Studies Program

The Yiddish Studies Program at Columbia University, the global leader in Yiddish scholarship and teaching, focuses on the experiences and cultural efflorescence of Ashkenazic Jewry over a thousand years

and five continents. It is a perfect exemplar of Columbia's interests in global and transnational study, weaving together language, literature, and culture in a way that echoes the best of Columbia's justly famed humanities programs.

The program in Yiddish studies offers both the undergraduate Major, Concentration and three new Minor tracks, in addition to graduate studies leading to the Ph.D. In both the undergraduate and graduate program, emphasis is placed not merely on acquiring linguistic proficiency and textual study, but also viewing Yiddish literature in a larger cultural and interdisciplinary context. The graduate program, the only degree-granting Yiddish Studies Program in the United States, is considered one of the world's most important, with its graduates holding many of the major university positions in the field.

Students of Yiddish have ample opportunities to enhance their studies through a number of fellowships. The [Naomi Fellowship](#), a fully-subsidized Yiddish Study Abroad program allows students to explore Yiddish culture and history in Israel and Poland. The Irene Kronhill Pletka [YIVO Fellowship](#) enables students to expand on their archival research skills in New York. Upon graduation, our majors compete successfully for Fulbright and other prestigious scholarships, and are highly qualified to pursue careers in humanities, social sciences, as well as artistic and professional careers.

Students work with faculty in Germanic languages, Jewish studies, history, and Slavic studies to broaden their understanding of the literature, language, and culture of Eastern European Jewry. The Yiddish Studies Program is also closely affiliated with the [Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies](#), which offers diverse programming and other fellowship opportunities. Classes are small, and instruction is individualized and carefully directed to ensure that students gain both a thorough general grounding and are able to pursue their own particular interests in a wide-spanning field. The program also offers classes taught in translation for students who do not study Yiddish. The Yiddish programming, such as lectures, monthly conversation hours, Meet a Yiddish Celebrity series, as well as the activities of the Yiddish Club of Columbia's Barnard/Hillel allows students to explore Yiddish culture outside the classroom.

## The German Language Placement Exam

The German Language Placement Exam is offered every semester to students who already speak the language in order to determine their language level (Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced) and the right level language course. Visit our [website for details](#).

## The German Language Program

First- and second-year German language courses emphasize spoken and written communication, and provide a basic introduction to German culture. Goals include mastery of the structure of the language and enough cultural understanding to interact comfortably with native speakers.

After successfully completing the elementary German sequence, [GERM UN1101](#) ELEMENTARY GERMAN I-GERM UN1102, students are able to provide information about themselves, their interests, and daily activities. They can participate in simple conversations, read edited texts, and understand the main ideas of authentic texts. By the end of GERM UN1102, students are able to write descriptions, comparisons, and creative stories, and to discuss general information about the German-speaking countries.

The intermediate German sequence, [GERM UN2101](#) INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I-[GERM UN2102](#) INTERMEDIATE GERMAN II, increases

the emphasis on reading and written communication skills, expands grammatical mastery, and focuses on German culture and literary texts. Students read short stories, a German drama, and increasingly complex texts. Regular exposure to video, recordings, the World Wide Web, and art exhibits heightens the cultural dimensions of the third and fourth semesters. Students create portfolios comprised of written and spoken work.

Upon completion of the second-year sequence, students are prepared to enter advanced courses in German language, culture, and literature at Columbia and/or at the Berlin Consortium for German Studies in Berlin. Advanced-level courses focus on more sophisticated use of the language structure and composition ([GERM UN3001](#) ADVANCED GERMAN I-[GERM UN3002](#) ADVANCED GERMAN II); on specific cultural areas; and on literary, historical, and philosophical areas in literature-oriented courses ([GERM UN3333](#) INTRO TO GERMAN LIT (GERMAN)).

## In Fulfillment of the Language Requirement in German

Students beginning the study of German at Columbia must take four terms of the following two-year sequence:

GERM UN1101	ELEMENTARY GERMAN I
GERM UN1102	ELEMENTARY GERMAN II
GERM UN2101	INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I
GERM UN2102	INTERMEDIATE GERMAN II

Entering students are placed, or exempted, on the basis of their College Board Achievement or Advanced Placement scores, or their scores on the placement test administered by the departmental language director. Students who need to take GERM UN1101 ELEMENTARY GERMAN I-GERM UN1102 ELEMENTARY GERMAN II may take GERM UN1125 Accelerated Elementary German I & II as preparation for GERM UN2101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I.

## Student Advising

### Consulting Advisers

**Director of Undergraduate Studies:** Professor Annie Pfeifer, 409 Hamilton Hall, [ap750@columbia.edu](mailto:ap750@columbia.edu), 212-854-8986

**Director of the German Language Program:** Jutta Schmiers-Heller, [js2331@columbia.edu](mailto:js2331@columbia.edu), 212-854-5381

**Director of the Yiddish Studies Program:** Professor Jeremy Dauber, [jad213@columbia.edu](mailto:jad213@columbia.edu)

**Director of the Yiddish Language Program:** Agnieszka Legutko, [abl209@columbia.edu](mailto:abl209@columbia.edu), 212-854-3202

Students can contact the DUS with advising questions. The Department of Germanic Languages is represented at the Academic Resources Fair prior to the beginning of the fall semester and hosts fall and spring open houses for interested students.

## Enrolling in Classes

The German Language Placement Exam is offered throughout the year to students who already speak the language in order to determine their language level (Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced) and the right level language course. Visit our [website for details](#).

## Preparing for Graduate Study

Upon graduation, German majors compete successfully for Fulbright or DAAD scholarships for research in Germany or Austria beyond the B.A. degree. Graduating seniors are highly qualified to pursue graduate studies in the humanities and social sciences, as well as professional

careers. Former majors and minors have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in law, journalism, banking and consulting, international affairs, education, and communications.

In addition to applying for Fulbright or DAAD scholarships, students considering graduate work may also wish to write a senior thesis or develop an independent research project with a faculty mentor.

Students interested in pursuing a PhD or MA in the field of Germanic Languages should therefore speak with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and other faculty members no later than the beginning of the fall semester before applying (i.e., typically the fall of the senior year).

## Coursework Taken Outside of Columbia

Coursework in fulfillment of a major or minor [or special program or concentration] must be taken at Columbia University unless explicitly noted here and/or expressly permitted by the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the program. Exceptions or substitutions permitted by the Director of Undergraduate Studies should be confirmed in writing by email to the student.

### Advanced Placement

The department grants 3 credits for a score of 5 on the AP German Language exam, which satisfies the foreign language requirement. Credit is awarded upon successful completion of a 3000-level (or higher) course with a grade of B or higher. This course must be for at least 3 points of credit and be taught in German. Courses taught in English may not be used for language AP credit. The department grants 0 credits for a score of 4 on the AP German Language exam, but the foreign language requirement is satisfied.

### Barnard College Courses

The German programs at Columbia and Barnard work together closely. Students may take courses at Barnard to count towards the Major or Minor with the approval of the DUS. Students at Barnard should speak to their advisor at Barnard regarding Columbia courses as the departments are distinct and the requirements for their respective majors are different.

### Transfer Courses

When students transfer to Columbia from other institutions, their coursework at their previous institution must first be considered by their school in order to be evaluated for degree credit (e.g., to confirm that the courses will count toward the 124 points of credit that every student is required to complete for the B.A. degree). Only after that degree credit is confirmed, departments may consider whether those courses can also be used to fulfill specific degree requirements toward a major or minor [or special program or concentration].

### Study Abroad Courses

Classes taken abroad through Columbia-led programs (i.e., those administered by Columbia's Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement and taught by Columbia instructors) are treated as Columbia courses, equivalent to those taken on the Morningside Heights campus. If they are not explicitly listed by the department as fulfilling requirements in the major or minor [or special program or concentration], the DUS will need to confirm that they can be used toward requirements in the major/minor.

Classes taken abroad through other institutions and programs are treated as transfer credit to Columbia, and are subject to the same policies as other transfer courses. There will be a limit on the number of courses

taken abroad that can be applied to the major/minor, and they must be approved by the DUS.”

## FUBiS Summer Language Program in Berlin

The department offers a language-intensive German program over the summer at the Freie Universität Berlin (FUBiS). Financial support is provided primarily by the Germanistic Society of America and the Max Kade Foundation, with some help from Barnard College, Columbia College, General Studies, Columbia Engineering, and the Department of Germanic Languages.

The FUBiS scholarship is for students who have completed at least two semesters or equivalent of German language instruction in our German language program by May of the year they are applying. Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement and German language aptitude. Each scholarship includes a travel grant, tuition for a six-week/one month-long German language course, and lodging at the summer program of the FU University. For additional information on FUBiS, please contact our department and visit <https://www.fubis.org>.

## Berlin Consortium for German Studies

The Berlin Consortium for German Studies (BCGS) provides students with a study abroad program, administered by Columbia University, which includes students from other consortium member schools (Princeton, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Chicago). You can study a semester or a full academic year. We have the original immersion program (4 semesters + of German required) and a program for students with less German. Please visit the Global Engagement page and click on the tab “Calendars and Pathways” to see all the options available to you: <https://global.undergrad.columbia.edu/program/bcgs>

For additional information on the Berlin Consortium, see the [Study Abroad—Sponsored Programs](#) section in this Bulletin, visit the [Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement](#), or consult the program’s office at [uge@columbia.edu](mailto:uge@columbia.edu) ([iuge@columbia.edu](mailto:iuge@columbia.edu)).

## Summer Courses

Summer courses at Columbia are offered through the School of Professional Studies.

Courses taken in a Summer Term may be used toward requirements for the major/minor only as articulated in department/institute/center guidelines or by permission of the Director(s) of Undergraduate Studies. More general policies about Summer coursework can be found in the Academic Regulations section of this Bulletin.

## Core Curriculum Connections

Faculty and graduate instructors from the Department of Germanic Languages regularly teach in the Core, usually Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization.

The Department of Germanic Languages also offers several courses that build on the coursework in Contemporary Civilization including “Marx, Nietzsche, Freud” (GERM4670GU) and “Aesthetic Theory - Frankfurt School” (CLGR 4210GU) and “Aesthetics and Philosophy of History” (CLGR4250GU).

## Undergraduate Research and Senior Thesis

### Undergraduate Research in Courses

Beyond the wide-ranging language instruction, the department offers courses that teach students critical theory and interdisciplinary thinking that are applicable to many areas of knowledge. Courses like “Literary Theory: Nietzsche-Agamben” (CLGR4130GU) introduce students to theoretical and interdisciplinary methods. “Advanced Topics” (UN3991) introduces students to contemporary topics and scholarly debates and is based on current research interests of faculty members. Students are also given an opportunity to develop an independent research project.

Students should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students can register for Directed Readings with a faculty member.

### Senior Thesis Coursework and Requirements

A senior thesis is not required for the major. Students interested in a senior thesis or research project may do so through independent study with a faculty member over one or two semesters. Students should approach a faculty member at the end of their junior or beginning of their senior year.

### Undergraduate Research Outside of Courses

## Department Honors and Prizes

### Department Honors

Normally no more than 10% of graduating majors receive departmental honors in a given academic year. For the requirements for departmental honors, see the DUS.

### Academic Prizes

All prize recipients are announced at the end of the spring semester of each academic year.

The German Academic Achievement Award is awarded to the top students in German language classes. The award is made by the department together with the support of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany. The prize consists of a certificate provided by the Consulate and a small gift provided by the department.

The Deutscher Verein Prize is a cash prize given annually to a single Columbia College junior or senior who submits the best essay on a prescribed topic in German Literature or culture. Essays can be in English or in German.

The Deutsches Haus Prize for Distinguished Undergraduate Achievement is given to a graduating German major or minor who has demonstrated excellence and promise in the field of German Studies.

## Other Important Information

### Deutsches Haus

Deutsches Haus, 420 West 116th Street, provides a center for German cultural activities on the Columbia campus. It sponsors lectures, film series, and informal gatherings that enrich the academic programs of the department. Frequent events throughout the fall and spring terms offer students opportunities to engage with current issues in the field and practice their language skills. Twice a month during the semester, the department offers “Kaffeestunde,” an open German conversation hour

for speakers at all proficiency levels. The department also holds monthly Dutch and Yiddish Conversation hours.

## Grading

Courses in which a grade of D has been received do not count toward the major or concentration requirements.

## Professors

Mark Anderson  
Stefan Andriopoulos  
Claudia Breger (Chair)  
Jeremy Dauber  
Andreas Huyssen (emeritus)  
Harro Müller (emeritus)  
Dorothea von Mücke  
Annie Pfeifer  
Oliver Simons

## Visiting Professors Spring 2025:

Maha El Hissy (Visiting Max Kade Professor)

Lieke van Deinsen (Queen Wilhelmina Visiting Assistant Professor)

## Senior Lecturers

Wijnie de Groot (Dutch)  
Agnieszka Legutko (Yiddish)  
Jutta Schmiers-Heller (German)

## Lecturers

Xuxu Song (German)  
Simona Vaidean (German)

## Guidance for Undergraduate Students in the Department

### Program Planning for all Students

Students who entered Columbia (as first-year students or as transfer students) in or after Fall 2024 may select from a curriculum of majors and minors. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, and role of majors and minors in those requirements, can be found in the Academic Requirements section of the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student matriculated at Columbia and the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student was a sophomore and declared programs of study.

Students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-2024 academic year may select from a curriculum of majors and minors and concentrations. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, and the role of majors and minors in those requirements, can be found in the Academic Requirements section of the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student matriculated at Columbia and the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student was a sophomore and declared programs of study.

### Course Numbering Structure

The 1000 and 2000-level courses are typically language classes including Elementary, Intermediate, and Conversation. At the 3000/4000-level, courses are either advanced language classes and literature/culture classes. While many 3000/4000 courses are taught in English, others

are taught in the target language and have language prerequisites or requirements.

## Guidance for First-Year Students

Students who have had prior German instruction are required to take the placement test, which is offered every semester. Students may enroll in 3000 and 4000 level literature and culture courses taught in English before or without completing the language requirements.

## Guidance for Transfer Students

When students transfer to Columbia from other institutions, their coursework at their previous institution must first be considered by their school in order to be evaluated for degree credit. Only after that degree credit is confirmed, departments may consider whether those courses can also be used to fulfill specific degree requirements toward a major or minor [or special program or concentration].

## Undergraduate Programs of Study Major in German Literature and Cultural History

The goal of the major is to provide students with reasonable proficiency in reading a variety of literary, philosophical, and historical texts in the original and, through this training, to facilitate a critical understanding of modern German-speaking cultures and societies. Students should plan their program of study with the director of undergraduate studies as early as possible. Competence in a second foreign language is strongly recommended, especially for those students planning to attend graduate school.

The major in German literature and cultural history requires a minimum of 30 points, distributed as follows:

GERM UN2102	INTERMEDIATE GERMAN II
GERM UN3001	ADVANCED GERMAN I (can be waived and replaced by another 3000 level class upon consultation with the DUS)
or GERM UN3002	ADVANCED GERMAN II
GERM UN3333	INTRO TO GERMAN LIT (GERMAN)

Select two of the following survey courses in German literature and culture (at least one of these must focus on pre-20th-century cultural history):

GERM UN3442	Literature in the 18th and 19th Centuries
GERM UN3443	SURVEY OF GERMAN LIT:19C (GER)
GERM UN3444	SURVEY OF GERMAN LIT:20C (GER)
GERM UN3445	German Literature After 1945 [In German]

One course in German intellectual history

GERM UN3991	Advanced Topics in German Literature
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The remaining courses to be chosen from the 3000- or 4000-level offerings in German and Comparative Literature—German in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Intermediate German II (GERM UN 2102) can be counted toward the required 30 points, but the total of points from language courses should not be higher than six points.

### Senior Thesis

A senior thesis is not required for the major. Students interested in a senior thesis or research project may do so through independent study with a faculty member over one or two semesters.



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## Major in Yiddish Studies

The program is designed as a combination of language and content courses. First- and second-year Yiddish language courses emphasize spoken and written communication, and provide a basic introduction to Eastern European Jewish culture. Goals include mastery of the structure of the language and enough cultural understanding to interact comfortably with native speakers.

After second-year Yiddish language courses are completed, students should feel sufficiently comfortable to begin to work with Yiddish literature in the original. Upper-level undergraduate/graduate courses are designed to accommodate students with a range of Yiddish language experience, and intensive language summer study abroad, such as the Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program (the Yiddish Studies program at Columbia offers the fully-subsidized [Naomi Fellowship](#) for students of Yiddish), or other academic summer programs, is also encouraged for improvement in language acquisition and comprehension.

The goal is to provide students with reasonable proficiency in reading a variety of literary, philosophical, and historical texts in the original and, through this training, to provide them with a critical understanding of Yiddish-speaking culture and society.

The second pillar of the Yiddish program is an intimate exposure to the literature and culture of the Yiddish-speaking Jewry. That exposure is achieved through several courses in Yiddish literature, which, although they may cover a variety of subjects or proceed from a number of methodological and disciplinary orientations, share a rigorous commitment to analyzing and experiencing that literature within an overarching historical and cultural framework.

These courses in Yiddish literature, culture and Jewish history will provide students with a solid interdisciplinary foundation in Yiddish studies. Inevitably and necessary, these courses, whether taught in Yiddish, English, or in a combination of the Yiddish text and English language instruction – cover the sweep of Yiddish literary history from the early modern period to today.

Students should plan their program of study with the director of undergraduate studies as early as possible. There is a prerequisite of two years of Yiddish, or equivalent to be demonstrated through testing.

The Major in Yiddish Studies requires a minimum of 30 points, distributed as follows:

1. **Two courses of advanced language study** (6 points); YIDD UN3101, YIDD UN3102
2. **Three courses in Yiddish literature** (9 points); e.g. YIDD UN3500, YIDD GU4420
3. **At least one course related to a senior thesis** (3 points);
4. **Four related courses, at least one of which is in medieval or modern Jewish history** (12 points); e.g. HIST UN4604, YIDD GU4113.

A senior thesis **is required** for the Major in Yiddish Studies. Students interested in a senior thesis or research project may do so through independent study with a faculty member over one or two semesters. Students must conduct original research, some of which must take place in the Yiddish language, and are required to submit a culminating paper, of no less than 35 pages.

Elective courses:

Elective courses can be taken at Columbia as well as at affiliated institutions such as the Jewish Theological Seminary, Barnard College, New York University, etc. Columbia's arrangements with the joint degree appointing program at JTS, i.e. JTS and GS Joint program with List College, offers students exposure to a wide variety of courses on Yiddish and Yiddish-related topics taught by experts in the field of Yiddish and comparative Jewish literature.

Thanks to the consortial arrangements with other universities in the New York area (Barnard, NYU, Yale, Penn, etc.) students both in Columbia College and General Studies, can take courses at these institutions for degree credit, which allows for student exposure to experts in twentieth-century Soviet Yiddish literature, Yiddish women's writing, Yiddish literature in Israel, and much more (Profs. Gennady Estraiikh, Kathryn Hellerstein, and Hannan Hever). These arrangements allow students to have, if they so choose, an even broader intellectual experience than the already broad interdisciplinary opportunities available to them via the courses offered by the faculty on the Interdisciplinary Committee on Yiddish at Columbia.

Language courses need to be taken at Columbia.

Honors options:

Departmental Honors in Yiddish Studies can be granted to a total of 10% of the students graduating with the Major in Yiddish Studies in a given year across both Columbia College and General Studies.

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## Minor in German

**The total number of courses required for the minor is 5 courses (= minimum of 15 points).**

Pre-requisites:

The minor requires at least 4 semesters of German language (= through Intermediate II), or equivalent proficiency determined by placement test. However, students can count the second semester of intermediate German (GERM UN2102) towards their five courses and begin other coursework (in translation) before completing the four semesters of language.

Language/Literature and Culture distribution:

A maximum of 6 points can be fulfilled with upper-level language courses (Intermediate II and/or Advanced). The remaining credits (= at least three courses) need to be 3000/4000-level literature/culture courses.

**Required Course:**

**GERM UN3333 (Introduction to German Literature)**

Course Description: Prerequisites: GERM UN2102 or the equivalent. Examines short literary texts and various methodological approaches to interpreting such texts in order to establish a basic familiarity with the study of German literature and culture.

**Recommended Electives:**

1. One of the period survey courses in German literature and culture
  - a. GERM UN3442 Survey of German Literature: 18th-Century
  - b. GERM UN3443 Survey of German Literature: 19th-Century

c. GERM UN3444: Survey of German Literature: 20th-Century

2. GERM UN3991: Advanced Topics in German Literature

**Other electives:**

The remaining courses can be chosen, in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, from the department's other 3000- or 4000-level offerings in German and Comparative Literature-German (taught in German or English).

**Sequencing:**

### Minor in German Thought and Critical Theory

The minor enables students to gain a deeper knowledge of a critical intellectual and philosophical tradition, which was first established by Kant and then adapted by Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Arendt, and the Frankfurt School. In addition to historicizing the contexts that allowed for the emergence of this mode of critical thinking, the minor also trains students to extend this critical awareness to new but equally contingent circumstances that we encounter in our global presents and futures. The minor draws on and strengthens crucial core competencies of a Columbia undergraduate education, especially critical thinking, written communication, global awareness, oral communication, and research. Students expand their knowledge of critical arguments by Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, and Arendt whose texts they also read as part of Contemporary Civilization. Offered in cooperation with the Philosophy Departments at Barnard and Columbia, this interdisciplinary minor allows students to explore various dimensions of critical theory including literary theory, continental philosophy, aesthetics, and political theory.

The total number of courses required for the minor is 5 courses (minimum of 15 points). Prerequisites: None. The second semester of Contemporary Civilization is recommended but not required. There is no German language requirement as part of the minor. Classes will be taught in English.

Requirements: Students have to take two of the following three courses:

**1. CLGR4210GU: Aesthetic Theory - Frankfurt School**

Critical theory was the central practice of the Frankfurt School. Founded in Frankfurt in 1923 and later based at Columbia University, this interdisciplinary institute influenced fields like sociology, political science, film, cultural studies, media theory, and comparative literature. The course begins by examining the genealogy of the Frankfurt School in Marxism and its critique of fascism and traces its afterlife in aesthetic theory, deconstruction, and gender studies, as well as the specter of "Cultural Marxism" recently floating around right-wing circles. We read texts by key figures of the Frankfurt School such as Theodor W. Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse and Jürgen Habermas as well as works by adjacent figures like Walter Benjamin, Hannah Arendt, and Siegfried Kracauer.

**2. GERM4670GU: Marx, Nietzsche, Freud**

Along with Darwin, Marx, Nietzsche and Freud have radically altered what and how we know; about humans, language, history, religion, things and life. Because their thought has shaped our sense of ourselves so fundamentally, Michel Foucault has referred to these three authors as discourse-founders. As such they will be treated in this class. Special attention will be paid to the affinities and competition among their approaches. Secondary sources will be subject to short presentations (in English) of those students capable of reading German.

**3. CLGR4250GU: Aesthetics and Philosophy of History (in English)**

This course offers an introduction to German intellectual history by focusing on the key texts from the 18th and 19th century concerned with the philosophy of art and the philosophy of history. Instead of providing a general survey, this thematic focus that isolates the relatively new philosophical subspecialties allows for a careful tracing of a number of key problematics. The texts chosen for discussion in many cases are engaged in lively exchanges and controversies. Readings are apportioned such that students can be expected to fully familiarize themselves with the arguments of these texts and inhabit them.

Electives: In addition, students take elective courses to be chosen from the following list of classes. They can also petition for other elective courses to count toward the minor, dependent on approval by the DUS of German.

Approved electives:

PHIL UN 2301 History of Philosophy: Kant-Nietzsche

PHIL UN 3251 Kant

PHIL UN 3264 19th Century Philosophy: Hegel

PHIL UN 3351 Phenomenology & Existentialism

CLGR GU4215 Spirit and Ghosts from Kant to Marx

CLGR GU 4420 Walter Benjamin

CLGR GU 4130 Literary Theory: Nietzsche-Agamben

CLGR GU 4251 Kant with Arendt (NEW COURSE PENDING APPROVAL)

### Minor in Yiddish Studies

**3 Separate Minor Tracks Available:**

The Yiddish minor is designed as a combination of five courses with three separate tracks:

5 courses (= minimum of 15 points)

1) Minor in Yiddish Language: 5 language courses;

2) Minor in Yiddish Language and Literature: a combination of language and content courses;

3) Minor in Yiddish Culture: 5 content courses.

**Requirements:**

**1. Courses required for Minor in Yiddish Language:**

**Requirement: Five Language Courses**

YIDD 1101 UN Elementary Yiddish I 4 points

YIDD 1102 UN Elementary Yiddish II 4 points

This year-long course offers an introduction to the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover a fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language and culture in a fun way. Using games, new media, and music, we will learn how to speak, read, listen and write in a language that is considered one of the richest languages in the world (in some aspects of vocabulary). We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, Yiddish organizations, such as YIVO or Yiddish farm, and so on. We will also have Yiddish-speaking guests and do a few

digital projects. At the end of the two-semester course, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read most Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome to Yiddishland!

YIDD 2101 UN Intermediate Yiddish I 4 points

YIDD 2102 UN Intermediate Yiddish II 4 points

Prerequisites: [YIDD UN1101](#)-UN1102 or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: [YIDD UN1101](#)-UN1102 or the instructor's permission.

This year-long course is a continuation of Elementary Yiddish II. As part of the New Media in Jewish Studies Collaborative, this class will be using new media in order to explore and research the fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language, and culture, and to engage in project-oriented activities that will result in creating lasting multi-media online presentations. In addition to expanding the command of the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, i.e. focusing on developing speaking, reading, writing and listening skills, and on the acquisition of more advanced grammatical concepts, students will also get some video and film editing training, and tutorials on archival research. The class will continue to read works of Yiddish literature in the original and will venture outside of the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through exciting field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, YIVO, Yiddish Farm, and so on. And we will also have the Yiddish native-speaker guest series. Welcome back to Yiddishland!

YIDD 3101 UN Advanced Yiddish 3 points

This course focuses predominantly on developing reading comprehension skills, as well as on listening, writing, speaking, and some more advanced grammar. It explores literary and scholarly texts examining the modern Jewish experience in the context of the twentieth-century history and culture of the Ashkenazi Jews. Supplementary texts will be selected based on students' interests and may include historical pedagogical materials, past and present newspaper articles, polemic, poetry, historical and scholarly articles. We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, Yiddish organizations, such as YIVO, and so on. We will apply our reading and translating skills to contribute to the Mapping Yiddish New York online project, and will also have Yiddish-speaking guests. At the end of the semester, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read authentic Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome back to Yiddishland!

Please note: Study abroad courses (such as the Naomi Fellowship run by Yiddish Studies Program) can count towards the minor fulfillment as well.

## **2. Courses required for Minor in Yiddish Language and Literature**

***Requirement: Combination of language and content courses: at least 15 points (see below).***

- 2 language courses at Elementary and/or Intermediate levels (listed above), and 3 elective content courses (listed below), at least two of which are literature courses: at least 17 points.

OR

- 1 language course at Advanced level (listed above) and 4 elective content courses (listed below), at least two of which are literature courses: at least 15 points.

## **3. Courses required for the Minor in Yiddish Culture**

***Requirement: Five elective content courses: at least 15 points.***

Selected from the list below, with at least three of being literature courses: at least 15 points.

The courses in Yiddish literature, culture and Jewish history, whether taught in Yiddish, English, or a combination of the English and Yiddish texts and English language instruction will expose students to modern global Yiddish/Jewish cultures from a number of methodological and disciplinary perspectives.

Please see chart below for recommended elective content courses for:

2) Minor in Yiddish Language and Literature

3) Minor in Yiddish Culture\*

1. YIDD UN3500: Survey of Yiddish Literature
2. CLYD UN3500: Readings in Yiddish Literature
3. YIDD GU4420: Gender & Sexuality in Yiddish Literature
4. CLYD UN4200 : American Jewish Literature: Survey
5. CLYD GU4250: Memory and Trauma in Yiddish Literature
6. YIDD UN3520: Magic & Monsters in Yiddish Literature
7. HIST UN3657: Medieval Jewish Cultures
8. HIST UN3644: Modern Jewish Intellectual History
9. HIST UN3630: American Jewish History
10. HIST UN4604: Jews and the City

\*The above list is "recommended" and not "required" since there are only two full-time Yiddish faculty members at the Department of Germanic Languages, and the courses are offered in rotation. This option also allows students to choose courses aligned with their interests and research needs. All the literature courses are taught by the Yiddish faculty at the Department of Germanic Languages, other courses are taught by faculty in History, Slavic, and Religion Departments.

The Yiddish minor requirement can be fulfilled by choosing from the list of approved courses (listed here and on the departmental website) in consultation with a Yiddish Advisor – either Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) or the Director of the Yiddish Language Program (DLP), preferably during the first two years of undergraduate studies. All courses have to be approved in advance by the Yiddish Advisor, who will make sure student minor design (particularly in case of Minor in Yiddish Language and Literature and Minor in Yiddish Culture) offers a solid foundation in Yiddish language, literature, and culture.

The Yiddish Advisor is in contact with the faculty outside of the Germanic Languages Department in order to consult, collaborate, and monitor the student progress towards the minor, the same model being applied in regard to the Yiddish Major. Many of the Columbia faculty teaching Jewish studies content courses are also affiliated with the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, which not only provides students and other departments with information about Jewish/Yiddish studies courses offered across the university on a regular basis, but it also facilitates networking and collaborations between the faculty.

### **List of all elective content courses for the Yiddish Minor:**

YIDD GU4101 INTRODUCTION TO YIDDISH STUDIES

YIDD UN3500 SURVEY OF YIDDISH LIT

CLYD UN4200 AMER JEWISH LIT: SURVEY

CLYD UN3600 HOLOCAUST LITERATURE: SURVEY

YIDD GU4550 YIDD THEATER: TEXT & PERFORMANCE

YIDD UN4401 MODERN YIDDISH POETRY

YIDD GU4200 THE FAMILY SINGER

YIDD GU4675 LIFE WRITING IN YIDD LIT

YIDD GU4420 GENDER & SEXUALITY IN YIDD LIT

CLYD GU4460 HORROR STORY: JEWS & OTHERS

YIDD UN3520 MAGIC & MONSTERS IN YIDD LIT

CLYD UN3500 READINGS IN YIDD LIT

YIDD UN3800 READINGS IN YIDD LIT

YIDD UN3360 MODERN YIDDISH LIT & CULTURE

WMST GU4310 CONT AMER JEWISH WOMEN'S LIT 1990 TO PRESENT

CLYD GU4250 MEMORY AND TRAUMA IN YIDDISH LIT

YIDD GU4995 EXPLORING YIDDISHLAND: CULTURE, TIME, SPACE

YIDD GU4113 YIDDISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES

YIDD GU4114 YIDDISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES II

HIST UN2611 JEWS AND JUDAISM IN ANTIQUITY

HIST UN3603 INTRL & GLOBAL HISTORY OF JEWISH MIGRATION

HIST UN3645 SPINOZA TO SABBATAI: JEWS IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

HIST UN3657 MEDIEVAL JEWISH CULTURES

HIST UN3644 MODERN JEWISH INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

HIST UN3630 AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

HIST UN4281 CULTURE IN POLISH LANDS

HIST UN4641 HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE IN AMERICAN CULTURE

HIST UN4610 ANCIENT JEWS AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

HIST UN4604 JEWS AND THE CITY

RELI UN4513 HOMELANDS, DIASPORAS, PROMISED LANDS

RELI UN4505 THE BEGINNINGS OF JEWISH MYSTICISM

MUSI UN2030 JEWISH MUSIC OF NEW YORK

RELI UN2306 INTRO TO JUDAISM

RELI GU4509 CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN JEWISH CULTURE

RELI UN3571 JUDAISM, JEWISHNESS, AND MODERNITY

RELI GU4524 THEORIES OF THE UNCONSCIOUS AND JEWISH THOUGHT

RELI GU4522 PRODUCTION OF JEWISH DIFFERENCE FROM ANTIQUITY TO PRESENT

RELI GU4308 JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND KABBALAH

RELI GU4637 TALMUDIC NARRATIVE

WMST GU4301 EARLY JEWISH WOMEN IMMIGRANT WRITERS

WMST GU4302 THE SECOND WAVE AND JEWISH WOMEN'S ARTISTIC RESPONSES 1939-1990

\*Since the above list of elective courses is so expansive, the additional course descriptions can be provided upon request.

## For students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-24 academic year

Concentrations are available to students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-2024 academic year. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, and the role of the concentration in those requirements, can be found in the Academic Requirements section of the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student matriculated at Columbia and the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student was a sophomore and declared programs of study.

Concentrations are not available to students who entered Columbia in or after Fall 2024.

### Concentration in German Literature and Cultural History

The concentration in German literature and cultural history requires a minimum of 21 points in German courses.

GERM UN3333 INTRO TO GERMAN LIT (GERMAN)

At least one of the period survey courses in German literature and culture

GERM UN3442 Literature in the 18th and 19th Centuries

GERM UN3443 SURVEY OF GERMAN LIT:19C (GER)

GERM UN3444 SURVEY OF GERMAN LIT:20C (GER)

GERM UN3445 German Literature After 1945 [In German]

GERM UN3991 Advanced Topics in German Literature

The remaining courses to be chosen from the 3000- or 4000-level offerings in German and Comparative Literature in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies

### Concentration in Yiddish Studies

The concentration in Yiddish studies requires a minimum of 21 points, distributed as follows:

1. **Two courses of advanced language study** (6 points); YIDD UN3101, YIDD UN3102
2. **Two courses in Yiddish literature** (6 points); e.g. YIDD UN3500, YIDD GU4420
3. **Three related courses, at least one of which is in medieval or modern Jewish history** (9 points); e.g. HIST UN4604, YIDD GU4113.

### Special Concentration in German for Columbia College and School of General Studies Students in STEM fields

The special concentration in German requires a minimum of 15 points.



GERM UN3333	INTRO TO GERMAN LIT (GERMAN)
At least one of the period survey courses in German Literature and Culture	
GERM UN3442	Literature in the 18th and 19th Centuries
GERM UN3443	SURVEY OF GERMAN LIT:19C (GER)
GERM UN3444	SURVEY OF GERMAN LIT:20C (GER)
GERM UN3445	German Literature After 1945 [In German]
GERM UN3991	Advanced Topics in German Literature
Two courses to be chosen from the 3000- or 4000-level (taught in German or English) offerings in German and Comparative Literature German in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies	

## Comparative Literature-German

### CLGR UN3212 Postwar Modernism: Literature # Thought. 3.00 points.

This course will examine how postwar European authors grapple with the inadequacies of language in the wake of unspeakable violence. We will explore how postwar experimentation intensifies modernist innovations that were already underway, and the ways in which these texts perhaps reflect an unprecedented historical breach. The postwar period sees a number of philosophers who champion the ambiguity of literature as socially or morally salutary, and write in an increasingly expressive prose. Yet many literary works thematize their own limits and begin to adopt philosophical and political terminology. Why and how do the boundaries that typically distinguish literary genre, and literature and thought, break down at this particular point in the 20th century? How does art—and the reformulation of language and genre—play a role in healing, mourning, or changing society in the aftermath of mass death? An analogous question will be: how do these texts, written amid European crises of roughly a century ago, speak to us in our contemporary moment of crisis and upheaval? Readings will include works by Koeppen, Brecht, Beckett, Heidegger, Adorno, Ausländer, Celan, Bachmann, and Domin

### CLGR GU4241 Literature and Money. 3.00 points.

Money in its multiple forms has received renewed attention in recent decades, especially since the financial crises in 2008 and the emergence of new cryptocurrencies. Money has been described as a means of exchange, a store of value, a measure of debt, a commodity, a social institution, or a tool in the formation of identity. In all of these instances, money fuses economic purposes with social and cultural practices. Exploring the intersections between economics and aesthetics, this course will juxtapose some of the most influential theories of money from Adam Smith to the present with contemporaneous literary texts that reflect on various aspects of money in their poetics on a thematic or formal level. Literary texts include Shakespeare, Goethe, Balzac, Zola, Thomas Mann, and Martin Amis

## Comparative Literature-Yiddish

### CLYD UN3500 READINGS IN JEWISH LITERATURE. 3.00 points.

As an onset of an ongoing investigation into the history and development of Jewish literature, we will focus on its very beginnings, as culturally understood – the Book of Genesis – and read it in light of millennia of Jewish literary commentary as lenses through which to examine currents, traditions, and trajectories of Jewish literary interpretation and history. By focusing on several distinct episodes and then tracking those episodes' reception in the light of differing moments of interpretation, we will try to gain a sense of this seminal work's changing role in Jewish history and culture. Familiarity with Biblical and rabbinic Hebrew not absolutely required, but strongly recommended

Spring 2025: CLYD UN3500

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
CLYD 3500	001/17221	T 2:10pm - 4:00pm 516 Hamilton Hall	Jeremy Dauber	3.00	11/25

### CLYD GU4250 Memory and Trauma in Yiddish Literature (in English). 3 points.

Trauma has become a defining aspect of the modern Jewish experience, while the recently emerged memory studies shed a new light on how we remember the past, and understand memory. As Cathy Caruth observes in *Trauma: Explorations of Memory* (1995), "The traumatized, we might say, carry an impossible history within them, or they become themselves the symptom of a history that they cannot entirely possess." This course examines how memory, especially memory of trauma, is explored in Yiddish literature, film, and beyond. It focuses predominantly on the works relating to the Holocaust and its impact on the first, second, and third generations, but it also engages with other kinds of memory and other kinds of trauma (pogroms, Chmielnitsky massacres, loss, death, etc.). It approaches the questions of memory and trauma from the perspective of gender, body, and identity, as well as postmemory. The course aims for students to discuss and critically engage with the works listed on the syllabus, in order to develop the skills of analytical, and abstract thinking, as well as the ability to express that critical thinking in writing. Texts will be offered in English translation, no knowledge of Yiddish required.

## Dutch

### DTCH UN1101 ELEMENTARY DUTCH I. 4.00 points.

Fundamentals of grammar, reading, speaking, and comprehension of the spoken language. During the spring term supplementary reading is selected according to students' needs

Fall 2025: DTCH UN1101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
DTCH 1101	001/11437	T Th 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA	Wijnie de Groot	4.00	0/20
DTCH 1101	002/11698	M W 4:10pm - 6:00pm Room TBA		4.00	0/12

**DTCH UN1102 ELEMENTARY DUTCH II. 4.00 points.**

Fundamentals of grammar, reading, speaking, and comprehension of the spoken language. During the spring term supplementary reading is selected according to students needs

Spring 2025: DTCH UN1102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
DTCH 1102	001/11390	T Th 6:10pm - 8:00pm 253 International Affairs Bldg	Wijnie de Groot	4.00	18/18
DTCH 1102	002/11391	M W 4:10pm - 6:00pm 352c International Affairs Bldg	Ben Bert F De Witte	4.00	15/12

**DTCH UN2101 INTERMEDIATE DUTCH I. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *DTCH W1101-W1102* or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: DTCH UN1101-UN1102 or the equivalent. Continued practice in the four skills (aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing); review and refinement of basic grammar; vocabulary building. Readings in Dutch literature

Fall 2025: DTCH UN2101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
DTCH 2101	001/11457	T Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm Room TBA	Wijnie de Groot	4.00	0/20
DTCH 2101	002/11699	M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA		4.00	0/12

**DTCH UN2102 INTERMEDIATE DUTCH II. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *DTCH W1101-W1102* or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: DTCH UN1101-UN1102 or the equivalent. Continued practice in the four skills (aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing); review and refinement of basic grammar; vocabulary building. Readings in Dutch literature

Spring 2025: DTCH UN2102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
DTCH 2102	001/11392	T Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm 253 International Affairs Bldg	Wijnie de Groot	4.00	20/18
DTCH 2102	002/11393	M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm 352b International Affairs Bldg	Wijnie de Groot, Nicolette Dekens	4.00	10/12

**DTCH UN3101 ADVANCED DUTCH I. 3.00 points.**

This advanced course is a content-based language course, and is centered around the history of the Low Countries. Each week focuses on a specific era, such as the counts of Holland in the 13th century and the Reformation in the 16th century. Students will read texts about history and literature of the historical periods. Students will read texts at home and discuss them in class, explore history-related websites and watch short video clips. Attention will be paid to advanced grammar issues and vocabulary

**DTCH UN3102 ADVANCED DUTCH II. 3.00 points.**

see department for details

Spring 2025: DTCH UN3102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
DTCH 3102	001/11394	T Th 1:15pm - 2:30pm 352a International Affairs Bldg	Wijnie de Groot	3.00	6/15

**DTCH UN3994 SPECIAL READING COURSE. 1.00 point.**

See department for course description

Spring 2025: DTCH UN3994

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
DTCH 3994	001/11395	W 11:30am - 12:45pm 351c International Affairs Bldg	Wijnie de Groot	1.00	2/5

## Finnish

**FINN UN2101 INTERMEDIATE FINNISH I. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *FINN W1101-W1102* or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: FINN UN1101-UN1102 or the instructor's permission. Continued practice in aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing; review and refinement of grammatical structures; vocabulary building. Readings include Finnish fiction and nonfiction

**FINN UN2102 INTERMEDIATE FINNISH II. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *FINN W1101-W1102* or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: FINN UN1101-UN1102 or the instructors permission. Continued practice in aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing; review and refinement of grammatical structures; vocabulary building. Readings include Finnish fiction and nonfiction

## German

### GERM UN1101 ELEMENTARY GERMAN I. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: No prior German. German 1101 is a communicative language course for beginners, taught in German, in which students develop the four skills -listening, speaking, reading, and writing- and a basic understanding of German-speaking cultures. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the four language skills within a cultural context. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to understand, speak, read, and write German at a level enabling them to communicate with native speakers and provide basic information about their background, family, daily activities, student life, work, and living quarters. Completion of daily assignments, which align with class content, and consistent work are necessary in order to achieve basic communicative proficiency. If you have prior German, the placement exam is required

#### Spring 2025: GERM UN1101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 1101	001/13517	T Th F 10:10am - 11:25am 316 Hamilton Hall	Isabel Blankfield	4.00	10/15
GERM 1101	002/13518	M T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 420 Pupin Laboratories	Ethan Fraenkel	4.00	8/15
GERM 1101	003/13520	M W Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm 315 Hamilton Hall	Xuxu Song	4.00	14/15
GERM 1101	004/13522	T Th 6:10pm - 8:00pm 315 Hamilton Hall	Young Na	4.00	13/15

#### Fall 2025: GERM UN1101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 1101	001/11671	T Th F 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Caroline Geck	4.00	0/15
GERM 1101	002/11670	M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA	Ethan Fraenkel	4.00	0/15
GERM 1101	003/11673	M T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA		4.00	0/15
GERM 1101	004/11674	M W Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA	Rebecca Cheng	4.00	0/15
GERM 1101	005/11675	T Th 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA		4.00	0/15

### GERM UN1102 ELEMENTARY GERMAN II. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: GERM UN1101 *GERM V1101* or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: GERM UN1101 or the equivalent. If you have prior German outside of Columbia's language sequence, the placement exam is required. German 1102 is the continuation of Elementary German I (1101). It is a four-skill language course taught in German, in which students continue to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in German and an understanding of German-speaking cultures. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the four language skills--listening, speaking, reading and writing--within a cultural context. Students expand their communication skills to include travel, storytelling, personal well-being, basic economics, recent historical events, and working with movie segments. Completion of daily assignments, which align with class content, and consistent work are necessary in order to achieve basic communicative proficiency.

#### Spring 2025: GERM UN1102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 1102	001/13524	M W Th 10:10am - 11:25am 315 Hamilton Hall	Xuxu Song	4.00	9/15
GERM 1102	002/13525	M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 315 Hamilton Hall	Xuxu Song	4.00	11/15
GERM 1102	003/13526	M T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 315 Hamilton Hall	Simona Vaidean	4.00	14/15
GERM 1102	004/13527	M T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 315 Hamilton Hall	Simona Vaidean	4.00	13/15

#### Fall 2025: GERM UN1102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 1102	001/11677	M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA	Isabel Blankfield	4.00	0/15
GERM 1102	002/11678	M W Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm Room TBA	Jutta Schmiers-Heller	4.00	0/15
GERM 1102	003/11680	M W Th 5:40pm - 6:55pm Room TBA	Xuxu Song	4.00	0/15

**GERM UN2101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: GERM UN1102 GERM V1102 or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: GERM UN2101 or the equivalent. If you have prior German outside of Columbia's language sequence, the placement exam is required. Intermediate German UN2102 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking. A wide range of topics (from politics and poetry to art) as well as authentic materials (texts, film, art, etc.) are used to improve the 4 skill. Practice in conversation aims at enlarging the vocabulary necessary for daily communication. Grammar is practiced in the context of the topics. Learning and evaluation are individualized (individual vocabulary lists, essays, oral presentations, final portfolio) and project-based (group work and final group project)

Spring 2025: GERM UN2101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 2101	001/13529	M T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 318 Hamilton Hall	Simona Vaidean	4.00	12/15

Fall 2025: GERM UN2101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 2101	001/11681	M T Th 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Patrick Woodard	4.00	0/15
GERM 2101	002/11682	M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA	Carl Claussen	4.00	0/15
GERM 2101	003/11684	M T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA		4.00	0/15
GERM 2101	004/00268	M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm 302 Milbank Hall	Irene Motyl	4.00	0/15

**GERM UN2102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN II. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: GERM UN2101 GERM V1201 or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: GERM UN2101 or the equivalent. Intermediate German UN2102 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking. A wide range of topics (from politics and poetry to art) as well as authentic materials (texts, film, art, etc.) are used to improve the 4 skill. Practice in conversation aims at enlarging the vocabulary necessary for daily communication. Grammar is practiced in the context of the topics. Learning and evaluation are individualized (individual vocabulary lists, essays, oral presentations, final portfolio) and project-based (group work and final group project)

Spring 2025: GERM UN2102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 2102	001/13531	M T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 607 Hamilton Hall	Patrick Woodard	4.00	10/15
GERM 2102	002/13532	M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 616 Hamilton Hall	Romney Walker Wood	4.00	6/15
GERM 2102	003/13533	M W Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 616 Hamilton Hall	Jutta Schmiers-Heller	4.00	17/15
GERM 2102	004/00132	M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm 302 Milbank Hall	Aviv Hilbig-Bokaer	4.00	8/15

Fall 2025: GERM UN2102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 2102	001/11685	M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA	Xuxu Song	4.00	0/15

**GERM UN2521 INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION I. 2.00 points.**

Corequisites: GERM UN1201

Prerequisites: Completion of GERM UN1101 and UN1102 or the equivalent This 2-point conversation group is designed for students who are now taking Intermediate German UN2101 or who wish to maintain their spoken German at least at the advanced intermediate level. The course is designed to improve your ability to speak and understand and manage German in everyday situations; to provide opportunities to participate in conversational situations on any topics you are interested in; to strengthen and acquire skills to understand German spoken at normal conversational speed; to expand active and passive vocabularies speaking skills; and to maintain a certain level of written German through short written activities. This course does not count towards the language requirement

**GERM UN3001 ADVANCED GERMAN I. 3.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *GERM V1202* or the director of undergraduate studies' permission.

Prerequisites: GERM UN2102. If you have prior German outside of Columbia's language sequence, the placement exam is required.

Note: UN3001 and UN3002 are not sequential. German UN3001 is an ambitious socio-cultural exploration of Berlin. Designed to follow up the language skills acquired in first- and second-year language courses (or the equivalent thereof), this course gives students greater proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing German while focusing on topics from German society today through various German media, such as internet, film, and literature through the lens of Germany's capital, Berlin. Topics discussed include: cultural diversity in Berlin's multi-cultural neighborhoods; questioning and reflecting upon Berlin's recent past; developing your own Berlin experience and presenting your interests in various forms, such as presentations, an essay, your CV, an application letter and interview for an internship in Berlin. The course represents a gateway class to literature courses and counts towards the major and concentration in German. Taught in German

Fall 2025: GERM UN3001

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 3001	001/11689	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA	Jutta Schmiers-Heller	3.00	0/15

**GERM UN3333 INTRO TO GERMAN LIT (GERMAN). 3.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *GERM V1202* or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: GERM UN2102 or the equivalent. Examines short literary texts and various methodological approaches to interpreting such texts in order to establish a basic familiarity with the study of German literature and culture

Fall 2025: GERM UN3333

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
GERM 3333	001/11431	M W 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Dorothea von Muecke	3.00	0/25



**GERM UN3444 SURVEY OF GERMAN LIT:20C (GER). 3.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *GERM W3333* or *W3334* or the director of undergraduate studies' or the instructor's permission.

. This course examines modernist literature, art, and music in the early twentieth century. In close readings, students will focus on the essential works from this period and learn to situate them in their historical contexts and the urban settings in which they were conceived: Munich, Prague, Vienna, and Berlin. The analysis of modernist works will be framed with introductions to questions of language, gender and sexuality, anti-Semitism, and the emergence of fascism. Authors include Arthur Schnitzler, Frank Wedekind, Robert Musil, Franz Kafka, Thomas Mann, Irmgard Keun, Bertolt Brecht, Alfred Döblin, and Walter Benjamin; musical works by Berg, Schoenberg, and Weill. The course is taught in German

## Swedish

**SWED UN2101 Intermediate Swedish I. 3 points.**

The goal of this course is to further develop the speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills you have acquired in the first year Swedish courses and broaden your knowledge about the Swedish culture and history. Topics emphasize contemporary Swedish life and cross-cultural awareness. In addition to the main text, newspaper articles, shorter literary texts, film, and internet resources will be used. Class will be conducted almost exclusively in Swedish. To succeed in this course, you must actively participate. You will be expected to attend class regularly, prepare for class daily, and speak as much Swedish as possible. Methodology The class will be taught in a communicative way. It will be conducted primarily, but not exclusively in Swedish. In-class activities and homework assignments will focus on improving and developing speaking, reading, writing, listening skills, and deepening the students' understanding of Swedish culture through interaction and exposure to a broad range of authentic materials.

## Yiddish

**YIDD UN1101 ELEMENTARY YIDDISH I. 4.00 points.**

This course offers an introduction to the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover a fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language and culture in a fun way. Using games, new media, and music, we will learn how to speak, read, listen and write in a language that is considered one of the richest languages in the world (in some aspects of vocabulary). We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, Yiddish organizations, such as YIVO or Yiddish farm, and so on. We will also have Yiddish-speaking guests and do a few digital projects. At the end of the two-semester course, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read most Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome to Yiddishland!

Fall 2025: YIDD UN1101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
YIDD 1101	001/10996	T Th 12:10pm - 2:00pm Room TBA	Agnieszka Legutko	4.00	0/15

**YIDD UN1102 ELEMENTARY YIDDISH II. 4.00 points.**

This course offers an introduction to the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover a fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language and culture in a fun way. Using games, new media, and music, we will learn how to speak, read, listen and write in a language that is considered one of the richest languages in the world (in some aspects of vocabulary). We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, Yiddish organizations, such as YIVO or Yiddish farm, and so on. We will also have Yiddish-speaking guests and do a few digital projects. At the end of the two-semester course, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read most Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome to Yiddishland!

Spring 2025: YIDD UN1102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
YIDD 1102	001/13390	M W 4:10pm - 6:00pm 408 Hamilton Hall	Joshua Beirich	4.00	10/15

**YIDD UN2101 INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH I. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *YIDD W1101-W1102* or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: YIDD UN1101-UN1102 or the instructor's permission.

This year-long course is a continuation of Elementary Yiddish II. As part of the New Media in Jewish Studies Collaborative, this class will be using new media in order to explore and research the fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language, and culture, and to engage in project-oriented activities that will result in creating lasting multi-media online presentations. In addition to expanding the command of the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, i.e. focusing on developing speaking, reading, writing and listening skills, and on the acquisition of more advanced grammatical concepts, students will also get some video and film editing training, and tutorials on archival research. The class will continue to read works of Yiddish literature in the original and will venture outside of the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through exciting field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, YIVO, Yiddish Farm, and so on. And we will also have the Yiddish native-speaker guest series. Welcome back to Yiddishland!

Fall 2025: YIDD UN2101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
YIDD 2101	001/10997	M W 4:10pm - 6:00pm Room TBA	Joshua Beirich	4.00	0/15

**YIDD UN2102 INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: *YIDD W1101-W1102* or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: YIDD UN1101-UN1102 or the instructor's permission.

This year-long course is a continuation of Elementary Yiddish II. As part of the New Media in Jewish Studies Collaborative, this class will be using new media in order to explore and research the fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language, and culture, and to engage in project-oriented activities that will result in creating lasting multi-media online presentations. In addition to expanding the command of the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, i.e. focusing on developing speaking, reading, writing and listening skills, and on the acquisition of more advanced grammatical concepts, students will also get some video and film editing training, and tutorials on archival research. The class will continue to read works of Yiddish literature in the original and will venture outside of the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through exciting field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, YIVO, Yiddish Farm, and so on. And we will also have the Yiddish native-speaker guest series. Welcome back to Yiddishland!

Spring 2025: YIDD UN2102

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
YIDD 2102	001/13391	M W 10:10am - 12:00pm 613 Hamilton Hall	Eve Jochnowitz	4.00	3/15

**YIDD UN3333 ADVANCED YIDDISH. 3.00 points.**

May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisites: *YIDD W1201-W1202* or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: YIDD UN2101-YIDD UN2102 or the instructor's permission.

Reading of contemporary authors. Stress on word usage and idiomatic expression, discussion

Fall 2025: YIDD UN3333

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
YIDD 3333	001/10998	T Th 2:10pm - 3:25pm Room TBA	Agnieszka Legutko	3.00	0/15

## Of Related Interest

### German (Barnard)

GERM BC3010	CURRENT ISSUES: GER # AUSTRIA
GERM BC3012	TELENOVELAS
GERM BC3028	Contemporary German Prose Fiction (English)